



MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Environment and Natural Resources Working Committee

From: CMAP Staff

Date: May 27, 2015

Re: Summary of proposed process for development of the next comprehensive regional plan and near-term committee engagement

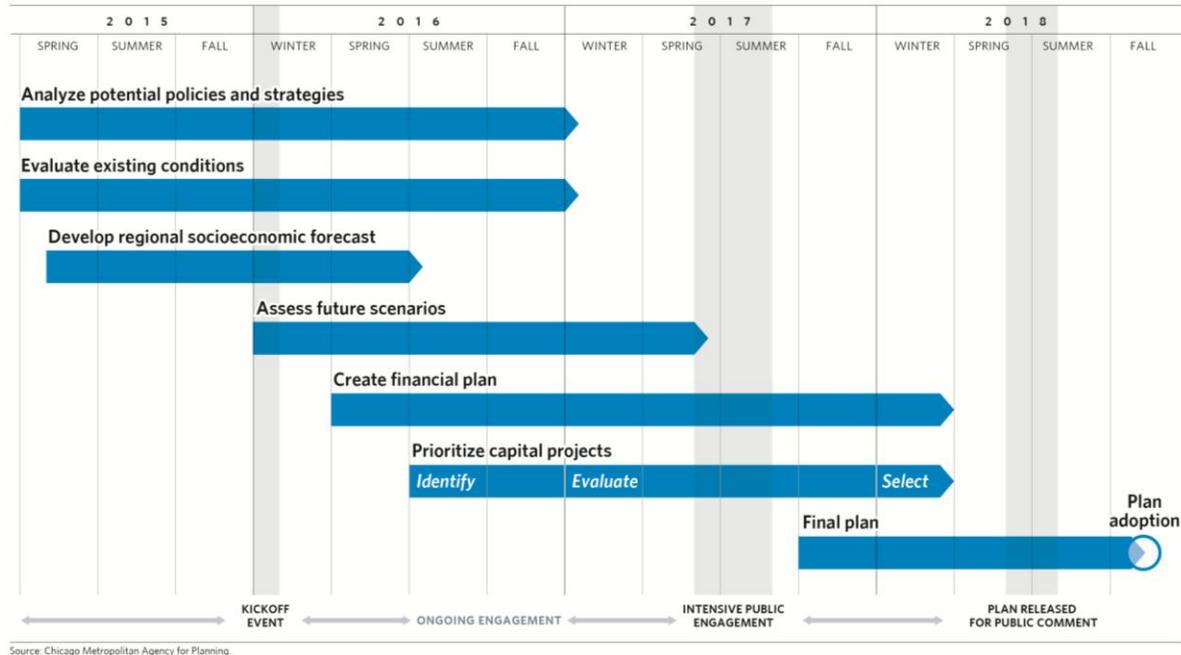
The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is embarking on development of its next comprehensive regional plan, which will be the successor of GO TO 2040. Development of the next plan will build upon that foundation and refine the major policy objectives of GO TO 2040 in a manner that is supportive of the agency's core land use and transportation responsibilities, as well as identify limited new policy directions that are complementary to CMAP's role. More specific policies and recommendations may address both the granularity in the current plan's policies as well as expand to geographically-oriented approaches for some policy areas.

This memo describes the overall timeline for plan development, provides an overview of plan development activities for the upcoming fiscal year, proposes a process for preparing background material for the plan in the form of strategy papers, and outlines topic areas for the strategy papers for committee discussion in FY 2016.

Proposed Comprehensive Plan Timeline

As with the agency's first effort, the next comprehensive plan will involve multiple overlapping phases of staff research and stakeholder and public input over the course of three years. The agency will begin engaging stakeholders in mid-2015 when committee members and external topical experts will be invited to participate in small single-topic resource groups that will help shape the plan's initial exploratory research and analysis. Broad engagement is anticipated to peak in mid-2017 when the public is asked to comment on a set of possible regional scenarios, and the public will also have an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft plan in summer 2018. Other public engagement avenues will be explored and defined during the course of the planning process. In October 2018, the plan will be considered for adoption by the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee.

CMAP comprehensive plan development timeline



Iterative Research and Engagement

During FY16 and throughout the planning process, CMAP working committees will be involved in reviewing and commenting on staff work related to development of the next plan. Other input opportunities will include smaller topic-specific resource groups, interviews with public and private stakeholders, and requests for data.

CMAP staff will conduct iterative research and engagement over the next year that will entail activities such as:

- Assessment of existing conditions and trends.
- Incorporation of appropriate information and recommendations from state, county, local, or other plans developed since GO TO 2040.
- Exploration of more focused approaches to GO TO 2040's policy recommendations.
- Analysis of a narrow list of new policy areas.
- Development of data, forecasting, and engagement methods.
- Identification of a preferred approach and strategies for scenario development.

The fruits of these efforts will start emerging in early 2016, when the agency will begin publishing a series of strategy papers and data-driven snapshot reports intended to stimulate further conversation with stakeholders and provide background material for the plan. Proposed strategy papers on transportation, land use, natural resources, and other topics will develop agency direction on new topics or explore refinements to existing plan recommendations. The snapshots will offer data-driven summaries of regional trends and current conditions in areas such as demographics, industry clusters, and the region's freight

system. Altogether, these activities will yield work products that should gradually reveal the plan's content.

CMAP Committee Involvement

These activities and work products will rely on continual assistance from CMAP committees. Planned snapshots and strategy paper topics for FY16 are outlined below. These focus areas were developed by staff in FY15, after extensive research on peer MPOs, discussions with committees and key stakeholders, and evaluation of progress on GO TO 2040 recommendations.

- Planned snapshot reports for FY16
 - Regional economic clusters and trends
 - Infill and TOD trends
 - Demographic trends
 - Transportation network and trends
 - Freight system trends
- Planned strategy papers for FY16
 - Geographically-based regional planning strategies*
 - Green infrastructure co-benefits in parks and open space
 - Public health indicators and assessments*
 - Comparative assessment of tax policies and land use trends*
 - Reinvestment and infill strategies*
 - Climate adaptation and resilience*
 - Undeveloped, agricultural, and natural areas*
 - Inclusive growth*
 - Regional approaches to housing supply and affordability
 - Transportation system funding concepts
 - Emphasis areas for transportation
 - Asset Condition*
 - Highway Operations
 - Transit Modernization*

NOTE: Here and below, the asterisk (*) denotes a topic that cuts across multiple committee areas or is outside current committee expertise. In these cases, CMAP will form the smaller, topic-specific resource groups mentioned above. Also, additional snapshots and strategy papers may be developed in FY17.

Environment & Natural Resources Working Committee Engagement in FY16

A number of the planned strategy papers address topics of interest to the ENR committee. As noted above, strategy papers will explore refinements to existing GO TO 2040 policies or limited new policy directions, with an emphasis on policies and strategies that are strongly linked to CMAP's core transportation and land use responsibilities. Topic areas that are anticipated to require feedback from the ENR committee are:

- 1) Green infrastructure co-benefits in parks and open space
- 2) Climate adaptation and resilience*
- 3) Undeveloped, agricultural, and natural areas*
- 4) Geographically-based regional planning strategies*

Each of these topic areas will be explored more broadly during FY16, beginning with convening resource groups for each of the asterisked topics and developing a project mission statement. The ENR committee will advise CMAP staff on the green infrastructure co-benefits in parks and open space strategy paper and should expect to have more regular (monthly or bi-monthly) communication with staff on this topic for the duration of the paper's development. The following summarizes the ENR committee's involvement in these projects by quarter in FY16.

- July – September 2015
 - Staff will present the proposed mission statements for the first three strategy paper teams
 - Discuss initial analysis for the green infrastructure co-benefits in parks and open space strategy paper
 - Comment on possible refinements to the Green Infrastructure Vision, priority conservation areas, and similar topics being explored as part of the geographically-based regional planning strategies topic
- October – December 2015
 - Discuss draft conclusions and research for the green infrastructure co-benefits in parks and open space strategy paper
 - Comment on initial analyses for the climate adaptation and resilience and undeveloped, agricultural, and natural areas strategy papers
 - Discuss the proposed framework for geographically-based regional planning strategies
- January – March 2016
 - Discuss draft conclusions for the undeveloped, agricultural, and natural areas strategy paper
 - Discuss findings from the climate adaptation and resilience and geographically-based regional planning strategies projects
- April – June 2016
 - Discuss draft conclusions from the climate adaptation and resilience and geographically-based regional planning strategies projects

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion